

the followers of Jesus would be first in line to protect any group from hate crimes . . . This bill protects both the rights of conservative religious people to voice passionately their interpretations of their scriptures and protects their fellow citizens from physical attack."

Many religious groups have expressed their support for the bill, including the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Interfaith Alliance, the Presbyterian Church, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the United Methodist Church, and the Congress of National Black Churches.

Over 10 years have passed since the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act was first introduced in the Senate. Over 10 years have passed since Matthew Shepard was robbed, pistol whipped, tortured, tied to a fence, and left to die because he was gay. I commend Matthew's mother, Judy Shepard, for her years of inspiring advocacy that have brought us to this moment. Now is the time for the Senate to vote and show that we will not allow domestic terrorism to tear apart the fabric of our Nation and take the lives of innocent Americans. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to follow their hearts and minds and vote in favor of this legislation.●

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY SUB- COMMITTEES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry has adopted subcommittees for the 111th Congress. On behalf of myself and Senator CHAMBLISS, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the subcommittees be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION & FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS—111TH CONGRESS

Subcommittee on Rural Revitalization, Conservation, Forestry and Credit: Rural economic revitalization and quality of life; rural job and business growth; rural electrification, telecommunications and utilities; conservation, protection and stewardship of natural resources; state, local and private forests and general forestry; agricultural and rural credit.

Sen. Lincoln, Chair; Sen. Leahy; Sen. Stabenow; Sen. Nelson; Sen. Casey; Sen. Bennet.

Republican Designee, Ranking; Sen. Cochran; Sen. McConnell; Sen. Grassley; Sen. Thune.

Subcommittee on Energy, Science and Technology: Renewable energy production and energy efficiency improvement on farms and ranches and in rural communities; food and agricultural research, education, economics and extension; innovation in the use of agricultural commodities and materials.

Sen. Stabenow, Chair; Sen. Conrad; Sen. Nelson; Sen. Brown; Sen. Klobuchar; Sen. Bennet; Sen. Gillibrand.

Sen. Thune, Ranking; Sen. Lugar; Sen. Roberts; Sen. Johanns; Sen. Grassley; Republican Designee.

Subcommittee on Hunger, Nutrition, and Family Farms: Domestic and international nutrition and food assistance and hunger prevention; school and child nutrition programs; local and healthy food initiatives; futures, options and derivatives; pesticides; and general legislation.

Sen. Brown, Chair; Sen. Leahy; Sen. Baucus; Sen. Lincoln; Sen. Stabenow; Sen. Casey; Sen. Klobuchar; Sen. Bennet; Sen. Gillibrand.

Sen. Lugar, Ranking; Sen. Cochran; Sen. McConnell; Republican Designee.

Subcommittee on Production, Income Protection and Price Support: Production of agricultural crops, commodities and products; farm and ranch income protection and assistance; commodity price support programs; insurance and risk protection; fresh water food production.

Sen. Casey Chair; Sen. Leahy; Sen. Conrad; Sen. Baucus; Sen. Lincoln; Sen. Brown.

Sen. Roberts, Ranking; Sen. Cochran; Sen. Johanns; Sen. Grassley; Sen. Thune.

Subcommittee on Domestic and Foreign Marketing, Inspection, and Plant & Animal Health: Agricultural trade; foreign market development; domestic marketing and product promotion; marketing orders and regulation of agricultural markets and animal welfare; inspection and certification of plants, animals and products; plant and animal diseases and health protection.

Sen. Gillibrand, Chair; Sen. Conrad; Sen. Baucus; Sen. Nelson; Sen. Klobuchar.

Sen. Johanns, Ranking; Sen. Lugar; Sen. McConnell; Sen. Roberts.

COMMENDING PETER ROGOFF

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize a very special member of my staff who has recently been confirmed by the Senate to take on a critical role in the Obama administration.

Peter Rogoff has served on the Appropriations Committee staff for the last 22 years and he has been the committee's senior transportation adviser for the majority of those years. For the past 9 years, as I have served as either chairman or ranking member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Peter.

Peter has been a trusted adviser to me and a dedicated public servant to the constituents of both my home State of Washington and the constituents of every member of the subcommittee. I know that Peter's drive, knowledge, and experience will be an outstanding asset to President Obama and Transportation Secretary LaHood's team.

Peter and I have worked together through many challenges over the years, none greater than the events of September 11 and the transportation security issues that we were confronted with after. Peter's efforts weren't just limited to aviation security but also included initiatives to strengthen security in passenger rail, transit systems, our ports and all the systems that connect them. During those difficult times, Peter's understanding of our transportation safety systems was fully evident.

It is a knowledge that comes with experience. And not just the kind of expe-

rience you gain from studying policy at your desk, although I can attest that Peter has done a lot of that. It is the kind of experience you get from traveling out to accident sites, talking with inspectors, meeting with families, and working hands-on to ensure that we are taking steps to ensure that accidents are not repeated.

In the time that I have worked with Peter, he has regularly traveled across the country to participate in aviation, rail and ship inspections, and he has voluntarily gone to many accident sites. The expertise gained from these experiences has served this Congress and our country well in some very critical situations.

In fact, I still remember clearly the evening 2 years ago when we all watched in horror as the 1-35 bridge collapsed in Minneapolis. Immediately after that tragedy, I dispatched Peter to accompany Senator KLOBUCHAR to the scene, because I knew that he could help her identify the core issues and how the Federal Government could help.

Now I know that as FTA Administrator, Peter will face a set of wide-ranging challenges. But I also know that he has the transit know-how to hit the ground running. Peter will bring over two decades of working knowledge on financing, building, and safeguarding our country's transit systems.

I thank Peter for the guidance, enthusiasm, and expertise he has shown in the years he has led my efforts on addressing our country's transportation, housing and urban development needs. I also wish him luck as he takes on this tremendous responsibility and opportunity.

While his departure represents a big loss for our Appropriations Committee and my appropriations subcommittee, I respect and commend President Obama's decision to put Peter's expertise to work on addressing our country's transit future.

COMMENDING CAPTAIN B. HARL ROMINE JR.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senators SNOWE, ENSIGN, DEMINT, THUNE, WICKER, ISAKSON, VITTER, BROWNBACK, MARTINEZ, and JOHANNS, we would like to thank Captain Harl Romine for his service to the Nation and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Captain Romine has a long and distinguished career with the Coast Guard. From his enrollment in the U.S. Coast Guard Academy through his retirement later this month, Captain Romine has spent the better part of the last three decades serving his countrymen and protecting our Nation in the U.S. Coast Guard. During his service in the Coast Guard Captain Romine has exhibited the best characteristics of a Coast Guard officer: a deep dedication to duty, unsurpassed professionalism,